

**Pioneering approach to co-operative housing in Spain -
World Habitat Awards Bronze Winner 2019**

A housing co-operative using a pioneering 'grant of use' model on public land has today been named a Bronze Award Winner in this year's World Habitat Awards.

La Borda, the first housing co-operative of its kind in Spain, incorporates 'passive' energy-efficient systems that improve climatic comfort, lower living costs and improve health.

A group of residents in Barcelona set up the co-operative with the aim of creating an equal, intergenerational community and providing an alternative to homeownership, the rental market and public housing. Construction began in 2012 and in January 2019 residents moved in. The building comprises 28 apartments, which house 60 people in the Sants neighbourhood of Barcelona.

In a city with soaring rents and unstable tenancies, La Borda has provided its members with a secure and more affordable home.

Retired resident Rosa, aged 67, said: "I had always dreamed of growing old surrounded by people who brought me vitality, with their ideas, their music, their longings, and their youth. In the co-operative La Borda this dream is coming true. I feel accompanied by the whole community. When the little ones arrive from school the house is filled with their voices and laughter. From my current situation as a retired adult I can contribute a part of my time to deal with emergencies, both in care and other needs, organise collective meals, attend to the plumber or collect clothes from the clothesline. Feeling useful to the community makes me grow and I think that's how we enrich each other."

David Ireland, Chief Executive of World Habitat, said: "La Borda has created an environmentally sustainable building and way of living. This provides a blueprint for how a good standard of living can reduce its impact on the climate emergency."

The World Habitat Awards judging panel said: "It's hard to break away from the historical housing path, but La Borda has managed it. It is a precedent for what is possible in co-operative housing and they have achieved the construction of a beautiful building in an expensive city."

Each year the World Habitat Awards are presented to the most outstanding and innovative housing projects from across the world. In 2019 almost 200 projects and programmes entered the Awards.

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Notes to Editors

1. The World Habitat Awards established in 1985 are the world's leading housing awards. They are organised by World Habitat in partnership with UN-Habitat. The two Gold Award Winners receive £10,000 and the opportunity for international development activities. More information about the Awards and this year's winners is available at: www.worldhabitatawards.org
2. The Gold Award Winners for 2019 are ***Viviendas para las entidades sociales, Spain*** and ***Restoration of Dignity and Human Rights of Indigenous Tribal Community in Karnataka, India***.
3. Alongside the two Gold Award Winners are one Silver Award and six Bronze Awards:
 - Discus Housing First, Netherlands (Silver)
 - Building with EARTH, China (Bronze)
 - Healthy Homes for Humanity, Guatemala (Bronze)
 - Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission, India (Bronze)
 - La Borda housing co-operative, Spain (Bronze)
 - #GreenNFit Neighbourhood Rebuild, USA (Bronze)
 - Dzivarasekwa Slum Upgrading Project, Zimbabwe (Bronze)
4. The **Final Judges of the World Habitat Awards** are:
 - **Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, Executive Director of UN-Habitat; and
 - **Leilani Farha**, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing.
5. The members of the **World Habitat Awards Advisory Group (judging panel)** are:
 - **Dr Angus Kennedy**, Chair, World Habitat;
 - **Christophe Lalande**, Head of Housing Unit, UN-Habitat;
 - **Dr Claudia Murray**, Research Fellow at the School of Real Estate and Planning, University of Reading;
 - **David Ireland**, Chief Executive, World Habitat;
 - **Dr Graham Tipple**, Consultant in housing and urban issues in developing countries; previously Reader in Housing Policy and Development, Associate Director of GURU (Global Urban Research Unit), University of Newcastle upon Tyne;

- **Professor Jo Richardson**, Associate Dean Research and Innovation / Professor of Housing and Social Research, De Montfort University and Trustee, World Habitat;
 - **Sorcha Edwards**, Secretary General, Housing Europe;
 - **Stephanie Gill**, Senior Programme Manager (World Habitat Awards), World Habitat;
 - **Terri Alafat**, Chief Executive, Chartered Institute of Housing; and
 - **Professor Yves Cabannes**, Development Planning Unit, University College London.
6. **The World Habitat Awards 2020** will be open for entries from 1 January 2020 until 23 March 2020. More information is available at: www.worldhabitatawards.org
7. **World Habitat** believes that everyone everywhere has the fundamental right to a safe and secure home. That is why we seek out and share the best solutions to housing problems from across the world. www.world-habitat.org